

Israel gets advanced U.S. planes

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli air force on Monday received the first of 75 advanced F-16C warplanes from the United States, making Israel the only U.S. ally equipped with the new fighter-bomber. The F-16C is an improved version of the F-16 that has been in Israel's air force since 1980, but has a more powerful engine, better avionics and is able to carry a heavier load of bombs and missiles, military experts said. Three F-16Cs, flown by American pilots, landed at an air base in northern Israel after a flight from Texas. The plane is manufactured by General Dynamics and its engine is made by General Electric. Israeli military censors would not allow reporters to name the base or give its exact location.

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جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً أخباراً سياسيةً واجتماعيةً واقتصاديةً عن المؤسسة

King visits Royal War College

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Monday, visited the Royal War College. The King was received upon arrival by the assistant chief of staff and the academy's commander and senior staff. His Majesty was briefed on the academy's tasks and duties. The King later met with the academy's students. Later on Monday, the King visited Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swarredhab, former head of the military council in Sudan, who is now undergoing medical check-ups at the King Hussein Medical Centre, and inquired after his health. The King later visited the tomb of the late Queen Alia.

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PSD to amend service rule

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) intends to cancel a special regulation currently in force which stipulates that any one joining the PSD should serve for a minimum number of years before he can leave the service. PSD sources said Monday. The sources added that 80 policemen would be terminated from service because they were unwilling to serve any more in the department after having served the specified terms.

Temperature drop expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan was affected on Monday by a depression, which was centred over the southeastern part of Cyprus and accompanied by a cold air mass which crossed the country and caused heavy rainfall in most parts of the Kingdom, the meteorology department said. The depression currently affecting the area will move eastwards and its effect on the country will be decreasing gradually, while the effect of the cold air mass will continue today and will result in a drop in temperatures, in addition to rainfall at times, accompanied sometimes by thunderstorms, the department said.

Arab proposed as Israeli diplomat

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli Arab is a candidate for a post of consul-general in the United States, the first time a member of Israel's Arab minority has been in the running for a diplomatic posting, foreign ministry sources said Monday. The sources said the candidate, whom they declined to name, was one of several proposed to represent Israel in Atlanta, Georgia. Israel Radio identified him as Mohammad Masrawa, a lawyer and member of the Labour Party with no diplomatic experience.

Goukouni in Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — Former Chadian rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei, whose followers have been battling Libyan forces in northern Chad along with government troops (See page 2), has arrived unannounced in the Algerian capital, sources at the Chadian embassy reported Monday. Mr. Goukouni, who had been reported under house arrest in Tripoli since last fall after a shootout with Libyan soldiers, arrived unannounced Sunday in Algiers, Chadian embassy sources in the Algerian capital said. His whereabouts was unknown and his presence was ignored by the Algerian media.

McFarlane hospitalised

WASHINGTON (R) — Robert McFarlane, a key figure in the Iran arms scandal, has been admitted to hospital due to a reaction to medication he was taking, a spokesman for the former White House national security adviser said Monday. "It was an adverse reaction to prescribed medication and he's going to be fine," the spokesman said. Mr. McFarlane was admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Maryland Monday morning and was being held for observation, according to the spokesman, who declined to provide more specifics.

INSIDE

- Gulf conflict poses new problems for superpowers, page 2
- Security forces destroy 288 kgs. of narcotics, page 3
- La Rabais d'Hiver de Chirac, by Dr. Nayef S. Zubi, page 4
- Where home is a dream on the sidewalk, page 5
- 3-centre Jordanian team to take part in Qatar rally, page 6
- Gulf Arab oil ministers appeal for cooperation to stabilise market, page 7
- Philippines rebels kill 5 in first post-ceasefire attack, page 8

U.S. hostages issue 'last-minute' appeal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three American hostages in Lebanon said Monday they were expected to be killed at midnight Monday (2200 GMT) unless last-minute pressure persuaded Israel to free 400 Palestinian prisoners.

"The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine will execute us at midnight because Israel is refusing to release 400 Palestinians from its cells," said a handwritten letter in English signed by the three Americans.

The letter, delivered to an international news agency in Beirut, was not signed by the fourth hostage held by the group, Indian Mithileshwar Singh.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said earlier his government was taking no action on the demand. "Nobody has approached Israel and Israel will not take any initiative on that issue," he told reporters.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine had said it will kill the four — Alan Steen, Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner and Mr. Singh — unless Israel frees the 400 Palestinians.

Monday's three-page statement, accompanied by a coloured photograph of Mr. Steen, said: "This is the last letter to our wives and the American people."

"We urge you all to push our government to order Israel to guarantee the release of 400 Palestinian Mujahideen before midnight," it said.

"Once again we announce that

Carbomb kills 15 in South Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded in a densely populated suburb of south Beirut on Monday and police said at least 15 people were killed.

They said the bomb-laden car, a white Mercedes-Benz, detonated at 2:45 p.m. near a filling station in the Rowissa district.

The blast touched off a "huge fire" at the gas station, police said.

Ambulances and fire engines raced to the blast scene with sirens wailing.

Police said dozens of people were wounded in the explosion. Rescue teams were searching in driving rain for more casualties in the wreckage of burned-out cars and the rubble of damaged buildings, sources from the Shi'ite Amal militia told Reuters.

The fire at the gas station and billowing black smoke also hampered the rescue operations.

The sources said the bomb consisted of 50 kilograms of highly-explosive liquefied gas.

"The blast occurred as students were leaving their schools. The

explosion appeared to be the biggest in the Shi'ite suburbs since a blast on March 8, 1985, which killed more than 90 people in the Bir Al Abed area, only 300 metres from Monday's bomb.

A car bomb exploded in east Beirut's suburb of Zalka Jan. 30, killing five people, including two schoolchildren, and wounding 37.

Former President Camille Chamoun was wounded Jan. 7 in a car bomb explosion in east Beirut. Four people were killed and 35 others, excluding the Christian leader, were wounded.

By police count, at least 113 people were killed and 658 wounded in seven car bombings in east Beirut last year.

Forty-nine people were killed in five other explosions elsewhere in Lebanon in 1986.

Amal leader Nabih Berri says the militia will lift its blockade of five camps in Lebanon only after Palestinians withdraw completely from positions they captured from Amal east of the southern Lebanon city of Sidon.

Maj. Jalloud said Palestinian fighters had already pulled out from these positions and called on Amal to lift the siege.

He also urged all Muslims in Lebanon to "storm the camps, carrying food and medicine as starvation and diseases are destroying Palestinians...."

The paper also said in an editorial: "Washington's troubles in the region cannot be solved with a display of fleets."

It declared: "It's obvious that the American naval buildup is not only a show of strength... the U.S. administration is seeking to kill several birds with one stone.

"It wants to cover up the string of scandals it has involved itself with at home, regain the confidence of Congress and the American people and threaten Syria and other nationalist forces in the Middle East."

The destroyer *Tender USS Puget Sound* and the destroyer *USS Richard Byrd* arrived one day early, joining the aircraft carrier *USS Kennedy* and the ammunition ship *USS Savannah* at Haifa harbour.

The United States ordered warships of the Sixth Fleet, led by the aircraft carrier *Nimitz*, into the Eastern Mediterranean two weeks ago after Americans were kidnapped by extremists in Lebanon.

Tsahal's editorial stressed that U.S. "policies will not work because, as in the past, no-one here

Israelis shoot and wound 7 Arabs in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded seven Palestinian demonstrators on Monday in the most serious outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank this year.

Two destroyers, two frigates and a guided missile cruiser joined the aircraft carrier *John F. Kennedy*, anchored in Haifa, 100 kilometres south of Beirut, for repairs and resupply, port officials said.

The United States has but ruled out a military operation to try to rescue the hostages but has not excluded the possibility of reprisal raids if the captives are killed.

In Washington, the White House, faced by the deadline set by the kidnappers, said again Monday that U.S. policy was not to pay ransom for hostages and not to encourage others to do so.

Hours later, three Palestinian students were wounded by Israeli gunfire at Nablus' Al Najah University, the scene of frequent anti-Israeli demonstrations.

Two of the wounded were in critical condition, said the Palestine Press Service which monitors news in the Israeli-occupied territories. Among the other wounded was a 16-year-old girl, the agency reported.

At Balata, soldiers fired on a group of about 100 demonstrators after they threw large rocks and empty bottles at the troops, according to the Israeli spokesman. The demonstrators also burned tires and waved the black, green, red and white flag of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he said.

The press service said hundreds demonstrated "to condemn aggression by the (Shi'ite) Amal militia against Palestinians" in refugee camps near Beirut.

The Israeli army did not release the names or ages of the wounded on Monday.

The press service identified the critically wounded as Raed Mohammad Hussein Rawash, 14, and Yehiya Hussein Abu Rawash, 18. It said Rawash suffered bullet wounds in the head and back and Sair was hit in the head and abdomen.

The press service said the violence spread to the Al Najah campus where soldiers fired tear gas and guns to disperse demonstrators, wounding two male students, both aged 23.

Al Najah has a student body of about 4,000 and is a frequent site of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The press service said dozens of students left the campus after the clash and were joined by protesters in the city's Hussein Square. It said troops fired teargas canisters to disperse the battles.

It was the most serious outbreak of violence in the West Bank since four Palestinians were killed and at least 25 wounded during anti-Israeli protests in December.

Israeli reports said the demonstrators were protesting against Israel's "iron fist" policy in the West Bank.

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Prime minister meets senior officials, briefs them on government programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment to the principles and guidelines contained in the letter of appointment given to him by His Majesty King Hussein when the government was formed and outlined Jordan's political stands vis-a-vis Arab, regional and international issues. The prime minister also reiterated Jordan's firm stands towards the Palestinian problem, the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese strife.

The prime minister was addressing a meeting attended by Cabinet members, the chief Islamic justice, governors, and the directors general of various government departments and institutions as well as the secretaries general and under-secretaries of the various ministries.

Mr. Rifai reviewed the principles which constituted the starting point for any action or effect towards achieving national as well as pan-Arab goals as outlined in the King's letter of appointment to him, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. He

also made a review of Jordan's role in the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations.

Mr. Rifai emphasised his government's adherence to the principles to which it committed itself before the King and the people in the statement the Cabinet issued while assuming office. The statement contained the government's

principles which constituted the starting point for any action or effect towards achieving national as well as pan-Arab goals as outlined in the King's letter of appointment to him, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The prime minister also emphasised the major role played by public servants in the service of the citizen and stressed the necessity of abandoning routine and adopting flexible management policies, Petra said.

Rocket attack downs plane in Afghanistan; 30 killed

Rebels claim responsibility in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) —

Thirty people were reportedly killed when a passenger plane went down after being hit by a rocket in Afghanistan, Radio Kabul and the Soviet news agency TASS said Monday. Rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government claimed responsibility for the attack saying the aircraft was carrying Afghan and Soviet soldiers.

The Afghan guerrilla officials quoted by AP in Islamabad said the plane was downed as it was making its landing approach at Khost on the eastern border. They said dozens of soldiers died when the plane blew up in mid-air, but gave no precise death toll.

Khost is the main government base in eastern Afghanistan's

Iraq reports battles east of Basra

BAHRAYN (Agencies) — Iraq said its forces killed 154 Iranian fighters east of the port city of Basra on Monday, while seven civilians were killed by Iranian shelling of Iraqi cities.

For the first time since Iran launched its major ground advance toward Basra a month ago, neither side reported any air raids on each other's cities or economic and military installations.

A military communiqué released in Baghdad said Iraqi artillery, tanks and mortars directed concentrated fire on Iranian positions on the southern front.

The Iraqi News Agency, which reported the 154 Iranian deaths, said "the area was 'totally under the control' of its forces."

Iranian reports said the demonstrators were protesting against Israel's "iron fist" policy in the West Bank.

The Iraqi communiqué said

Iranian artillery fire killed six people in the northeastern city of Sulaymaniyah and a seventh in Basra.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said its artillery gunners pounded Iraqi positions east of Basra, inflicting "irreparable casualties and losses."

Iran's defence minister, General Adnan Khairallah, toured positions held by the Third Army Corps, which has taken the brunt of the Iranian offensive on the southern front.

Meanwhile, one of Iraq's main military commanders said Iran was planning a fresh offensive against Basra.

Lieutenant-General Maher Abd Al Rashid, commander of the southern Basra front, said he would lead his Seventh Army corps into battle to disprove rumours that he had been captured.

He said Iraqi forces were now back in full control of the battleground east and south of Basra a month after the Iranian attack.

He told reporters that Iranian forces had been expelled from their main foothold at Fish Lake, just 10 kilometres from Basra and further south along the Jassim River.

Likud and Labour seek compromise on settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc held intensive consultations on Monday to try to end a coalition dispute with the Labour Party over aid to Israel's debt-ridden collective kibbutz farms.

He added: "We do not bold American nations responsible for the American administration's crimes against the Lebanese people and its support for what was happening in their city."

The people of Beirut have to recognise that what they are doing is ruining themselves," he said. "They, in effect, have a plague there. They are isolating themselves from the world and the world should isolate them."

Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, a Shi'ite Muslim and spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), said he read Mr. Shamir's remarks with amazement.

"We figure it represents evasion from a problem the American administration could solve by exerting pressure on Israel," he said.

Sheikh Fadlallah said: "America may isolate Beirut economically with its navy... it may destroy Lebanon with its shells as

Mr. Shamir said in a statement.

Gulf conflict poses new problems for U.S., Soviets

LONDON (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union agree on one thing: Neither of them wants to see the Iraqi city of Basra fall into the hands of the Iranian forces, Western diplomats and analysts say.

The latest Iranian advance on Basra, in south east Iraq, has reawakened old anxieties for the superpowers which for years have watched with relative indifference as the Gulf war ground on in a bloody stalemate.

The main problem is how to stop an Iranian victory without alienating Tehran. Middle East experts said.

Most, though not all, analysts still believe Iran cannot win the war outright. Iraq's defences are too strong and its financial backing from the Gulf Arab states too firm, they said.

U.S. officials with access to satellite photographs said Basra was not in imminent danger.

Basra, Iraq's second city, would if captured be the biggest prize won by either side since the war started in September 1980.

Neither Washington nor Moscow wants to see Iraq overrun. For the United States, Iranian ascendancy in the oil-producing Gulf area would be a strategic nightmare.

The Soviet Union also wants stability in the region, Western diplomats say, and would be deeply humiliated by the defeat of an army which has relied mainly on Soviet weaponry against Iran's American arsenal inherited from the days of the Shah.

But both superpowers also recognise the strategic importance of Iran, with its long border with the Soviet Union.

It was a desire to improve relations with moderate elements in the Islamic fundamentalist regime of Ayatollah Khomeini that led Washington into its ill-fated policy of supplying Tehran with military spare parts.

Ex-hostage denounces report linking Waite with U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former hostage David Jacobsen said the U.S. military show of force in the Mediterranean shows that "we are concerned and that we will act."

He also denied charges by a pro-Iranian extremist group that missing Anglican church envoy Terry Waite carried a transmitter to help the United States plan an attack on Lebanon.

"Terry Waite is an independent humanitarian who works only for God and the Archbishop of Canterbury," Jacobsen said in a statement. "He is not an agent, a front or a cover for any government organisation or political organisation."

Mr. Waite, an envoy of the Church of England's Archbishop of Canterbury, went to Lebanon on Jan. 12 on a mission to free two Americans who were Jacob-

sen's fellow-captives.

Mr. Waite accompanied Jacobsen when he was freed in Beirut last November.

He dropped out of sight on Jan. 20 after saying he was going to meet with the kidnappers, a group called Islamic Jihad, or holy war.

Another group, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which says it held French and American hostages, Sunday in Beirut that Mr. Waite had a "signal-sending wireless detector" on him. The statement said the device was to be used to pinpoint possible targets for U.S. attack.

A U.S. naval battle group has been cruising near the Lebanese coast in recent days. U.S. officials say it is there only as a "precaution."

the Kremlin's continued neutrality, according to Iranian embassy officials in the Soviet capital.

Moscow has been trying to restore economic cooperation with Iran.

Apart from not alienating Iran or Iraq, the Soviet Union also faces diplomatic headaches in the Middle East at large, its mainly Syria, supports Iran, but Moscow cannot afford to offend the vast majority of Arab states which back Iraq.

The United States, for its part, has often been accused of conniving at the continuation of a conflict which is ruining two potential foes of its ally Israel.

Irani First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadhan told the New York Times this month that Iraq had lost its oil port of Fao to Iran last year because Washington had supplied it with faulty information playing down the scale of the Iranian attack.

Domestic critics, however, accuse the Reagan administration more of neglect than of malice in its Gulf policy, and say the arms-to-Iran scandal has not turned up any public sympathy for Iraq. Washington resumed diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984 but has none with Iran.

"In both the State Department and the Pentagon, officials admit the United States has no contingency plans for thwarting a Khomeini victory," Middle East expert Milton Viorst wrote in the latest issue of the influential U.S. journal Foreign Affairs.

"Conceding the seriousness of the threat, they say... that the secretaries of State and Defence have not been willing to place serious policy proposals before the president."

Most diplomats in Europe believe both superpowers are broadly sincere in saying they would like the war to end soon with the situation on the ground as close as possible to what it was before hostilities started.

Iranian air chief sacked after conflict with Tehran, rebels say

AMMAN (J.T.) — Colonel Sadig, commander of the Iranian air force, has been dismissed following a series of severe confrontations within the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iranian rebels have said. In a telecast statement to the Jordan Times, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq said reports reaching the group said that Col. Abdol, chief of staff of the air force and deputy to Col. Sadig, recently fled Iran after embezzling from the air force. That placed Col. Sadig under suspicion and extensive psychological pressure by the regime's officials, it said.

Navon is also minister of education and culture, said he would meet Spain's King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during his four-day visit.

Navon is a member of the Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Levy vows to push for 6 Hebron settlements

By Joel Greenberg
Jerusalem Post

HEBRON — Housing Minister David Levy has declared here that he would unilaterally order work to begin on six new settlements in the territories if the cabinet did not move to establish them.

"Settlement will not be frozen, and no one will impose a freeze on us," Levy (Likud-Herut) asserted at a ceremony marking the start of his ministry's construction of new housing in Hebron.

The project will contain 13 flats and a "Betzar Movement Centre for the Study of the Land of Israel."

"If there is stalling, I will order the immediate start of work to establish new settlements on which there is a cabinet decision," Levy told an applauding rain-soaked crowd. Later, he told reporters: "If there is no readiness to discuss implementation of this clause, which is rooted in the government's basic guidelines, I will have no choice but to carry it out myself."

Levy said he would take action if there were no progress by the time the state budget was approved. He said his office had last week submitted a detailed

budget proposal for the six new settlements to Finance Minister Moshe Nissim.

Levy denied that his unilateral move would contradict government policy, and said that the failure to establish the settlements was itself a violation of the coalition agreement and government guidelines.

In an oblique reference to Prime Minister Shamir, Levy warned that the Likud failing to meet its obligations to its voters.

"Apparently, someone is interested in signalling that in order to move along a certain line we are freezing settlement. To this person I say, settlement will not be stopped. This is the supreme imperative for which the Likud is in the government. If the Likud denies, or is embarrassed about, or bends (to pressure) over continuation of settlement, it will have violated its mission, trust and mandate."

In its London-dated report, Al Dustour quoted "informed diplomatic sources" as saying spare parts for American-built warplanes were shipped to Iran in January. These parts, which are supposed to be unavailable to Iran under an American ban on arms sales to Tehran, were shipped from South Korea and West German dealers, the daily said, adding that the shipment was carried out "without the intervention of the American government."

The daily did not give figures or specifics on the cash value, the volume of the shipment or the nature of the spare parts. But it quoted its sources as saying that Israeli arms dealers, who were involved in previous arms shipments to Iran under a U.S.-Israeli arrangement, were not involved in the January shipment. It added

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Khatib returns from official visit to Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib returned to Amman Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Oman where he signed an agreement on Jordanian-Omani cooperation in information fields following his talks with Omani government officials.

Mr. Khatib met with Sultan Qaboos with whom he reviewed Jordanian-Omani relations in general and means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in touristic, cultural and information fields in particular.

Upon his return to Amman, Mr. Khatib said in a statement that Sultan Qaboos underlined the importance of giving further momentum towards the closer coordination of efforts for the aim of making Jordanian-Omani relations exemplary.

Mr. Khatib described bilateral relations as excellent and said that the talks were characterised by total frankness and based on firm foundations. He said that the agreement signed in Muscat covered aspects of cooperation in

radio, television and the press, the exchange of expertise, programmes and mutual production and also tourism.

Agreement was reached during the talks on holding periodic meetings between the information ministers of both countries to assess achievements and to plan for further executive programmes. Information officials from both sides will also meet regularly to discuss technical matters, the minister said. He added that in his talks with Prince Faisal Ibn Ali, the Omani minister of culture, cooperation in cultural affairs was discussed.

Mr. Khatib said that he and Mr. Saleh Ibn Abdulla Al Ghazali, Omani minister of trade and industry, discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in tourist affairs and supplying Oman with Jordanian expertise to help develop Oman's tourist facilities. Programmes to train guides and the establishment of a hotel training institute in Oman were also discussed, Mr. Khatib concluded.



Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib returns to Amman Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Oman (Petra photo)

Security forces destroy 866 kgs of narcotics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Security forces on Monday destroyed 866 kilogrammes of narcotics with a street value of JD 2 million in addition to 1,626,124 Captagod tablets and a large number of cigarettes filled with hashish, assistant director of public security for legal affairs Major General Mahmud Obaidat said Monday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Maj.-Gen. Obaidat said that the quantity included hashish, cocaine, opium, heroin, Indian hemp, in addition to poppy seeds mixed with milk powder.

Maj.-Gen. Obaidat added that Jordan is neither a narcotic producer nor a drug consuming country. He said that the number of narcotics addicts does not exceed 100 people and that the majority of them had started taking narcotics during their stays abroad.

The public security official added that the Public Security Department (PSD) and the Narcotics and Forgery Control Department apply modern and effective methods in detecting and dealing with narcotic traffickers. He pointed out that a number of public security officers have recently been trained in the use of police dogs to detect narcotics and that the dogs were being used in Ramtha and the Queen Alia International Airport.

In Zarqa, security forces on Sunday arrested three Lebanese nationals carrying 7.5 kilogrammes of hashish which they brought into Jordan from Lebanon, a report in the Arabic daily

Al Dustour said on Monday.

Colonel Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Narcotics and Forgery Control Department, said the three Lebanese citizens, were arrested while trying to sell the hashish, which had been hidden in their car.

Two weeks ago, Col. Qaisi reported the seizure of 140 kilogrammes of hashish and opium with a street value of JD 250,000 from a 27-member multi-national gang.

Col. Qaisi said anti-narcotics operations last year led to the arrest of 286 people, "Jordanians and other nationalities," for alleged use or sale of drugs, and confiscation of 934 kilogrammes of hashish, opium, heroin and cocaine.

"We are determined to prevent any narcotics from entering Jordan by air, sea or land," Col. Qaisi said.

The Narcotics and Forgery Control Department recently issued statistics which said that 286 people of Jordanian and other nationalities have been rounded up in 1986 in drug smuggling and trafficking cases.

The department said that last year authorities seized 1,200 kilos of processed hashish, 9 kilos of opium, 2.28 kilos of heroin, 1.2 kilos of cocaine, 15 syringes and 2,695,172 pills.

Col. Qaisi reported 86 drug addicts in Jordan in 1986, down from 114 people in 1985. He attributed the drop to his bureau's campaign against smuggling.

Dudin, Shawwa review projects for Gaza Strip

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Mayor of occupied Gaza Rashid Al Shawwa on Monday voiced his total support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to increase the Palestinian people's steadfastness and ability to resist Israel's measures in the occupied Arab territories and to help them deal with the difficult economic circumstances they are presently facing.

Mr. Shawwa, who is leading a delegation from the Gaza Strip for talks with Jordanian government officials, was speaking during a meeting with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin. The minister said that the government, under the directives of King Hussein, will continue to give attention to means of helping the Arab inhabitants living under Israeli rule to thwart Zionist plans and overcome difficult economic conditions in the occupied territory.

Mr. Shawwa said that the government's inclusion of the Gaza

Strip in a five-year development plan covering the occupied territories was deeply appreciated by the people of Gaza and its region.

During the meeting with the minister, the delegation outlined the Gaza Strip's needs and the urgent projects it hopes to carry out in the fields of health, education, agriculture, housing and handicraft industries.

The two sides reviewed the requests and needs and further action will be taken, according to a ministry spokesman. The spokesman said that the ministry has already allocated JD 1.5 million to finance the implementation of urgent schemes in the Gaza Strip.

Following the meeting, Mr. Dudin said that the exchange of views had been very fruitful and successful. He said he was highly impressed with the homework done by the Gaza delegation on the projects to be implemented in their region.

Danish company to study wind energy potentials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on Monday concluded an agreement with a Danish company under which the company will provide consultative services for a project on the use of wind energy to generate electricity.

The agreement was signed for the Ministry of Energy by Dr. Hisham Khatib, and for the Jordan Electricity Authority by its director general Mohammad Said Arafat and by the company's representative — Mr. Eversoo.

Under the agreement, the company will within one month embark on a survey to identify wind sources, wind speed analysis

and directions of wind, and will select a site to establish a pilot project for generating electricity using wind energy. The experimental pilot project will be linked with the national grid.

The company will also undertake a feasibility study in preparation for implementing the project on commercial bases in the future.

The agreement also provides that the company undertake a study on the materials and equipment which could be manufactured locally for operating the project. The study will take thirty months to complete.

Experts prepare for 42nd Arab economic and social council

RIYADH (Petra) — A two-day meeting at the experts level started in Riyadh on Monday to pave the way for holding the 42nd session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, due to convene here on Wednesday.

The experts will discuss a number of issues related to the recommendations issued by the 41st session and decisions and recommendations put forward by the

coordinating committee, which groups representatives of the Arab League general secretariat, its affiliated departments and Arab organisations.

They will also discuss recommendations passed by the 13th session of the standing committee for statistics and the recommendations of the first conference on Arab trade, which concluded here on Sunday.

Senate returns contracting law to legal committee after rejecting amendments

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senators on Monday rejected amendments to Jordan's first-ever contracting law passed by the Lower House of Parliament and halved the commission taken by the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) on each public tender project.

The Upper House which unanimously voted against the amendments, returned the 1986 draft law to the House's legal committee for reconsideration.

Drafted to consolidate the role of Jordan's ailing construction sector, the law gave the JCA an upper hand in organising the contracting sector, classified contractors into six grades according to their capital and services and compelled contractors to become fully-fledged association members before they could conduct any business. Previously, contractors were obliged to register as members of the Jordanian Engineers Association.

Senators were primarily opposed to article 49 of the law on the JCA's revenues which stipulated that the association draws a 0.01 per cent share of the total value of each project executed by local or foreign contracting companies working here but said that the sum collected should not exceed JD 1,500. The House voted against the modification and reduced the percentage to 0.005 and put the total collected fees at JD 1,000 maximum.

The senators also voted against a Lower House amendment which said that the JCA president and his deputy should be grade A contractors. Maj.-Gen. Obaidat said that the JCA president and his deputy should be grade A contractors.

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Darker clouds

DARKER and more ominous clouds are hanging over Lebanon these days. The so-called "camp war" is still raging savagely with no speedy end in sight to the bloodletting in spite of all the efforts of Arabs and non-Arabs to stop it. The death toll has risen to 545 in the 11 weeks since the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian refugee camps came under siege by the Shi'ite Amal militiamen. News reports coming out of the refugee camps speak of starvation and untold hardships being experienced by people living there. At the same time, the U.S. navy in the Eastern Mediterranean still looms on the horizon, ready to strike should U.S. hostages be executed. Meanwhile, the whereabouts of the British Anglican church envoy Terry Waite is still unknown, although it is now almost certain that he is being held as a hostage too. His safety is being endangered by the rumours that he was acting for Western intelligence agencies while attempting to negotiate an end to the ordeals of the kidnapped in Lebanon. And in the midst of all these events, there are now apparent unofficial negotiations with the group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine to exchange the four American hostages which it is holding for some 400 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. The offer by Amal leader Nahil Berri to exchange prisoners came in the wake of the ultimatum issued to Israel by the Islamic Jihad to accept their offer or face the execution of the hostages.

On the surface, Berri's offer makes sense and should be pursued. Specifically, he is suggesting to exchange the Israeli airmen being held by the Amal forces for the 400 Palestinian prisoners being held by Israel. It is interesting to note that while the Islamic Jihad's offer is being rejected by Israel, Israeli leaders are not dismissing Berri's offer outright. Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, is quoted as suggesting that Berri's offer be made through proper channels. It thus appears as though the emerging triangular negotiations emerging over the hostages and prisoners issue could bear fruit, and if this is so, then the whole issue which invited the U.S. military buildup could be defused as well. This would leave us still with the greater issue of the fighting between the Palestinians and Amal and the situation in Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh and other refugee camps in Lebanon.

In real terms the camps and the poor neighbourhoods in the southern part of Beirut are now the real hostages in Lebanon, having been under siege and continuous shelling since last October. It is not hard to imagine the hardships associated with the kidnapping of one single innocent person, let alone when hundreds of thousands of innocent people are besieged and blockaded for so many months. Should the fate of the few individuals taken as hostages unfold in a positive direction, we think the minds of all of us should turn next to the Palestinian refugee camps and all other areas in west and south Beirut who are now hostage to factional fighting and have become the real perpetual victims in the volatile arena that is Lebanon.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peres' dream persists

IN an interview with Israel's military radio Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, called again for direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel and said that peace between Israel and Jordan is the genuine peace. But it is to be noted that Jordan has been reiterating the need for a total settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of a genuine peace which will entail a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Also Jordan has been calling for an international conference so that such a durable peace can be achieved. Hence, Peres' statement about direct negotiations or partial solutions for the Middle East question remain empty talk. Jordan has announced its firm policy in this regard and continues to adhere to that policy. Jordan has announced that it cannot act on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation nor can it represent the Palestinian people. The continued Israeli propaganda campaign directed against Jordan can never intimidate this country nor can it force it to change its national stands. Jordan's views have been well understood by France, Italy and the Vatican and appreciated and looked on favourably and with respect by many other nations because this country aims at achieving a comprehensive peace based on justice.

Al Dustour: Conflict escalates

IT seems that Washington has not completely scrapped its military options in Lebanon despite the soothing statements issued by a number of American government officials over the past days. American warships are still stationed off the Lebanese coast and the American aircraft are flying over the region threatening to attack any time in a bid to secure the release of the hostages in Lebanon; or if the hostages are murdered. The kidnappers are maintaining that they will kill the hostages if their demands are not met, and so they are tempting the Americans to launch their attack on Lebanon as soon as possible. Both the kidnappers stand and the American threats of intervention are unacceptable and unjustified because any military activity would endanger the lives of the innocent Lebanese people and cause further sufferings and tragedies to Lebanon. Perhaps the American administration would launch an attack anyway not for the sake of releasing the hostages but for the sake of seeking vengeance on the kidnappers, and their groups in Lebanon. We totally reject any pretext given by the Americans for intervention but at the same time we hope that the groups that hold the hostages will refrain from carrying out their plans and kill their captives.

Sawt Al Shaab: Why blame others?

ISRAEL, through its close collaboration with the United States and in pursuit of its dreams in the Arab region, has been able to push the Middle East issue to the bottom of priorities on the list of important world problems. Through its coordination with the United States, Israel has been able to divert world attention to the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf region where it succeeded in carrying out a plot designed to fragment the Arab and Muslim nations and cause further splits within the Arab World. For the world, the Arab-Israeli conflict is a secondary issue now, and no one is giving due attention to it or to the means of ending the problem of Israel's occupation of Arab land. At the same time, Israel has been able to continue with its own programme for consolidating its hold on Arab territory and building more settlements on Arab land it still holds since 1967.

La Rabais d'Hiver de Chirac

By Dr. Nayef S. Zu'bi

A few years ago, Yves Guichard, the economic editor of *Le Figaro*, somberly noted that the experiences of the right in Britain, and the left in France, stand as a warning to those who argue, that increased government intervention and higher taxes are effective in reducing unemployment or producing higher standards of living.

The argument for the need for state controls has been losing ground in France since then. The Socialist president, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, and his outgoing finance minister, Mr. Pierre Bérégovoy, came to realise that nationalisation curtails the competitiveness of France. They came to recognise that economic rationality should be above political ideology.

To fulfil campaign promises, and to adhere to ideological stands, the Mitterrand Socialist government, when coming to power embarked on a demand-side economic course of action. Government spending increased dramatically. Wage and price controls were enacted. Exchange controls combined with successive doses of devaluations were introduced. New laws that increased monetary and non-monetary rewards to workers in the form of reduced working week, paid vacations, and early retirement with all due benefits were introduced. Credit controls, introduced in 1972, continued to reign. Obviously, the victims of what the French call "encadrement du crédit" were by and large small and medium businesses, whose access to international markets is limited, and whose contribution to employment is important.

French banks, while securing in a recent survey three positions among the world's top ten banks in terms of assets, continued to be a political football. General Charles de Gaulle started the nationalisation of what came to be known as the *Trios Vieilles* (the three old ladies), namely the Crédit Lyonnais, Société Générale and the two banks merged in 1966 to become the Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP). In the belief, that nationalisation is needed to properly serve the financing function of the economic activities, the Socialist government of President Mitterrand put more banks under state control. The experiment was a failure. The reversal was eminent.

Today, France is shifting gears. A Socialist president facing a conservative assembly is providing the necessary ingredients for a

new direction in economic policy. A direction, that is also fair to say, has already started under the outgoing Socialist finance minister, Mr. Bérégovoy. A major privatisation scheme of major government enterprises, along with the deregulation of the banking sector, and the revitalisation of the financial markets is planned to take place over the next five years. The move has been dubbed as "France's financial revolution," thus bringing to mind contrasts to the glorious French revolution of 1789. "La Rabais d'Hiver de Chirac" — Chirac's Winter Sale — is another media name for the privatisation drive. A name that reminds us that Paris is after all a city of fashion shows, and the sales thereafter.

Mr. Chirac's Winter Sale involves companies of market capitalisation of \$45 billion. The banking sector share alone is around \$15 billion. It makes Mrs. Thatcher's privatisation scheme of \$5 billion that took place over the past five years look as a downpayment. What is at stake in the French privatisation scheme is more than 20 per cent of the current market capitalisation of French businesses, the later standing at \$90 billion. The companies to be privatised cover a wide range of economic activities: electrical and electronic companies such as Thompson SA and CGE, oil and chemicals such as Elf Aquitaine and Total — CFP, aerospace such as Avions M. Dassault, and banks such as Paribas.

To encourage the participation of the French citizenry in the newly created equities brought about by privatisation, the government privatisation law calls for that every French citizen has the legal right to 10 shares in each company. The privatisation law also is reserving 10 per cent of the shares to be sold to the companies' employees, while another 5-10 per cent will be retained by companies to provide loyalty bonuses for shareholders maintaining their holdings for a set period. Foreigners share cannot exceed 20 per cent.

The privatisation law allows for up to 50 per cent of the purchase price of shares to be tendered in the form of government bonds, many of which were initially issued to finance the Mitterrand government nationalisation drive of 1982.

Historically, the French interest in stock market does not parallel

that of other industrialised countries. That is causing concern to some observers regarding the ability to absorb intended public share offerings. For example, compared to the United States and Britain, where in those countries the total market capitalisation represents around 50 per cent, and 65 per cent of their respective GDP, the total market capitalisation in France is little over 10 per cent.

However, the picture has been changing over the last few years. Saving has been channelled more towards equities, and less towards savings accounts. The financial market is getting more sophisticated. New financial instruments are introduced, and new markets such as the *Marché à Termes d'Instruments Financiers* (MATIF) — a financial future markets — are established. The practices in the French financial markets, once called Napoleonic are deemed to change. A deregulated financial market, will bring about the innovation, and the sophistication required to attract investors: domestic and international. The increasing role of institutional investors (Pension funds, insurance companies, trusts, etc.), will also make room for new equities, and they need not flood the market.

The chairman of Credit Lyonnais, one of the major banks on the denationalisation list rightly identifies the conditions needed to guarantee successful privatisation: Companies providing attractive investment possibilities and having healthy balance sheets, large and active capital market that is capable of handling large equity offerings, and of maintaining social balance. Above all, a strong French economy that alleviates the fears of domestic and international investors, is a prerequisite for successful privatisation.

The French privatisation experiment is undoubtedly a fascinating one. From it, a lot could be learned in Jordan. Replacing ideology by economic rationality is on a rising curve. France is riding the curve, so is Jamaica. The two extremes of wealth and poverty agree on that markets do it better than committees. Francois Mitterrand Socialist ideology did not work in France, nor did Michael Manley leftist policies in Jamaica. While the incumbent Mitterrand is learning from his errors, and is losing heart to policies that do not work, the opposition leader Michael Manley is still trying to play the role of a twentieth century Don Quixote!

U.S. helpless onlooker, stumbling giant in face of hijacks

By Christopher Hanson

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The presidencies of Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter came to grief over hostage crises and President Gerald Ford's bid to rescue U.S. merchant seamen seized by radical Kampuchean was condemned as inept.

The difficulties of three successive administrations have led counter-terror experts to ask: What effective steps can a president take when U.S. citizens are seized abroad?

Their answers are anything but reassuring.

Despite America's vast armed might, it often turns out to be a helpless onlooker or a stumbling, flailing giant when faced with the acts of small, dedicated terror groups.

"There is very little you can really do," Robert Hunter, a Carter foreign policy aide, told

Reuters in a comment echoed by many other analysts.

Reagan's secret sale of arms to Iran — a bid, according to the administration, to win release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon — was exposed late last year, helping to spark his greatest political crisis and a sharp drop in his popularity.

Carter's presidency foundered due to an agonising hostage crisis in which 52 Americans were held in Iran for 444 days — despite efforts to negotiate, apply economic pressure on Iran and launch a military rescue mission. Many regard the disastrous failure of the rescue bid as Carter's undoing.

When Kampuchean seized the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez in 1975, taking the crew of 39 hostages, Ford took personal charge of a hastily organised rescue effort. U.S. marines assaulted an island where the hostages were believed held — after they had, in fact, been released unharmed

elsewhere. Thirty-eight would-be rescuers died in the ill-fated operation.

The crises of the three presidents were different in many respects but they had certain things in common, analysts say:

— Great public and political pressure was focused on the president for decisive action to secure the hostages' release.

— That pressure was increased by intense news media coverage of each hostage episode.

— The White House itself raised expectations of what it could accomplish through public statements which heightened the significance of each episode, stoking calls for action.

Ford immediately declared the Mayaguez affair a serious crisis, raising public expectations of a military response which, when it came, underscored U.S. military ineptitude rather than power, according to critics.

Carter initially treated the Iran

hostage affair as a grave crisis and later found himself unable to reduce it to an issue of secondary importance.

As a result, he was saddled with an image of weakness.

Reagan, who entered office in 1981 on the day the hostages were finally freed in Iran, vowed "swift and sure retribution" against similar acts of terrorism. He said he would never make concessions to terrorists and would bring them to justice, using military force as required.

But despite his rhetoric, when a series of Americans were seized in Lebanon, he entered upon his ill-fated arms deal.

Three Americans were released as the arms shipments went ahead, but the pitfalls of his policy became evident when six other Americans were seized and the whole affair was leaked to the news media last November, badly tarnishing the Reagan administration's image at home and abroad.

Before the Iran deal came to light, U.S. bombers attacked what Washington said were "terrorist targets" in Libya. Reagan drew praise in some quarters for adding steel to his anti-terror rhetoric, but critics said the attacks actually pointed up the limits of U.S. power.

Libya was a relatively weak target, according to Robert Kupferman, a former White House counter-terror advisor. Syria and Iran were more heavily involved, critics claim, but attacking them would bring serious losses.

Ford, Carter and Reagan each might have achieved better results if he had downplayed his terrorist crisis, according to some foreign policy experts.

Presidents have great power to set the news agenda in Washington, the experts say. If the president seems to be doing all he can for hostages but subdues his rhetoric, news media attention — and public pressure on the White House for dramatic, but possibly unwise, action — may be diminished.

In general the correct White House approach, Hunter said, was to "depressurise, not pressurise the situation ... to deprecate the importance of the episode."

Reagan seemed to concede as much last week after four college professors, including three Americans, were kidnapped in Beirut.

The president, stressing that the new hostages had ignored repeated warnings to quit Lebanon, said there was "a limit to what our government can do in a chaotic situation."

The United States has a naval force in the eastern Mediterranean but Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims cautioned reporters against assuming military action was likely.

LETTERS



One of the two Renoir paintings "censored" by custom officials

Medieval censorship

To the Editor:

THE increasing fame of Jordanian artists and painters and the frequency of art and painting exhibitions held in the country would prompt one to believe that paintings and works of art are respected by the concerned authorities and given proper consideration for the value of art. But a recent episode involving a new year calendar brought into the country belies this belief and casts doubt on the guidelines adopted by the officials who are entrusted with the task of ensuring that no pornographic material enters the country. If anything, the recent incident points to a ridiculous situation where the concerned officials could not distinguish between pornographic material and real works of art which are internationally famous for their sheer elegance and presentation of the human body's anatomy.

I was shocked to see at least two renowned paintings by the celebrated French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir partly blotted out by ink in the calendar in question. The calendar is dedicated to Renoir and gives a lengthy description of the artist and his works which are considered some of the best in the 19th century's art history. I enclose herewith one of the paintings, which I was told, was "censored" by the local authorities when it was brought into the country. The painting speaks for itself and I do not think any explanation is needed on this count.

While one could understand the motives behind blotting out posters of films and photographs in magazines with sexual undertones, one fails to understand the logic behind applying the same principle to paintings known for their classic beauty and grace with no hint whatsoever of sex. But at the same time, it is not difficult not to notice the paradox in the situation: calendars and posters with photographs of models wearing bikinis and G-strings slip into the country easily and many a third class cinema houses in the country run X-rated movies apparently with no restrictions whatsoever.

It is time that the concerned authorities educate the officials who handle the issue at their tables on how to distinguish between a pure work of art and something that is pornographic.

Hamzeh Hamzeh
Amman.

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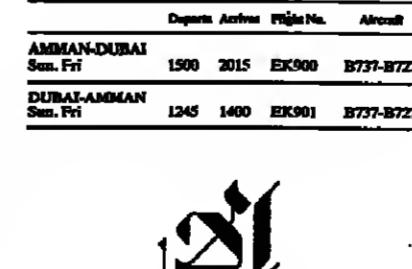
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Where home is a dream on the sidewalk

Homelessness is increasing in the conurbations of the U.S. The problem is so acute that many people now dream the American dream on the nation's sidewalks and park benches. David Owen reports from one of the most affected areas.

CHICAGO — "You all should have a commitment to the Union all the time because you don't have a damn thing else to do."

Mr. Henry Nicholas of the Union of Hospital and Health-care Employees pulled no punches in his keynote address to the founding convention of the New York City Union of the Homeless in Manhattan's upper West Side.

His audience, spirits roused by previous resolutions condemning apartheid and urging the transfer of some U.S. military funding to human services, and bellies full after a hot lunch, lapped it up.

As Mr. Nicholas left the podium, the convention ball reverberated with the rallying call "Tomorrow is Today," chanted by hundreds of homeless voices.



A destitute site on a New York pavement waiting for a handout. The pathetic sight tells its own story of poverty and degradation.

Against the current labour union trend, the National Union of the Homeless has expanded rapidly since its foundation in 1984.

From its first chapter in Philadelphia, the union has branched out into eight major U.S. population centres and boasts over 10,000 members.

Its success is largely explained by the fact that the number of homeless people in the U.S. is expanding at an alarming rate. According to a National Coalition for the Homeless survey, the total has increased by 25 per cent in each of the last two years. The Washington-based organisation estimates that up to 3 million people are wandering the streets of America — the equivalent of a city the size of central Chicago.

New York is the worst black-spot with 60,000 to 80,000 on the streets, according to NCH estimates. The figure for Los Angeles is put at 33,000 to 50,000, and Chicago at around 25,000. But the problem is by no means confined to the major cities. Portland, Oregon, is believed to have as many as 7,000 homeless people on its streets and even Burlington, Vermont (population: 37,712), has up to 120.

Among the most worrying features of the recent sharp increase in the homeless population is that an ever-growing range of individuals appear vulnerable to its spread. "These days, it really is indiscriminate in the people it touches," according to Ms. Maria Foscarini, the NCH's Washington counsel. "A significant proportion of the homeless are employed or suburban dwellers," she adds.

A significant — and particularly fast growing — proportion too are young families with children, a point rammed home forcefully



by Mr. Nicholas, who delivered his New York speech against a backdrop of sullen mothers and bouncing babies.

These families have been especially hard hit by the drastic cuts in federal housing programmes which observers blame, along with high unemployment, welfare cuts and the de-institutionalisation of the mentally ill, for the general swelling of the homeless ranks over the past two years.

The amount of money going to federally-subsidised housing has been cut by 75 per cent under the Reagan administration," claims Ms. Foscarini. "There is an extreme scarcity of affordable housing," she adds.

The national picture is epitomised by the situation in Chicago, where previously rundown neighbourhoods have been demolished to make way for luxury residential high-rises. Inevitably, some former inhabitants have been left to wander the streets, as their previously low-cost living quarters have been transformed into \$700-a-month apartments.

The response of local government to the rapidly escalating homeless problem has varied

greatly. Estimated 1986 expenditures on food and shelter range from nothing at all in Houston or Miami to \$15 million-\$16 million in Los Angeles and \$81 million in New York. New York's Mayor, Mr. Edward Koch, is even proposing four new shelters in each of the city's five boroughs, despite fierce opposition from some residents.

But the NUH itself is pushing for less money to be spent on shelters and more on permanent low-income housing and job training. Most homeless people prefer the streets to shelters, according to NUH founder, Mr. Chris Sprowal, a college graduate who found himself homeless in Philadelphia two years ago after his business failed and his marriage broke up. "In the shelters you can get mugged or killed," he says.

In Chicago, the union has taken its protests to luxury apartment blocks on the shores of Lake Michigan, arguing that some of the accommodation should go to low-income individuals since the complexes were part-federally funded. Meanwhile, in Washington DC, pro-

testers recently demanded the right to renovate and live in vacant, boarded-up buildings which, according to local union treasurer Ms. Victoria Luna, "dot the city's landscape."

While such efforts on behalf of the homeless are frequently hamstrung by lack of political clout, parts of an NCH-sponsored bill called the Homeless Persons Survival Act were passed in the last congressional session. Among the sections approved were a change giving the homeless the right to buy prepared meals with food stamps and a clause specifically prohibiting agencies from using a claimant's lack of fixed abode as an excuse for disallowing benefits.

But such changes, while welcome, attack the symptoms, not the root cause of the problem. Until the homeless can be organised into a coherent unified voice, as they were briefly by Mr. Nicholas' New York address, more and more low-income families and individuals will find themselves dreaming the American dream on the nation's sidewalks and park benches — Financial Times feature.

Liberace, 'Mr. Showmanship,' added sequins to the classics

By John Pine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — The flamboyant Liberace, who died on Thursday aged 67, put sparkle into the classics and seduced audiences throughout the world with his dazzling smile, rippling keyboard style and outlandish wardrobe.

The man born Wladziu Valentine Liberace in West Allis, Wisconsin, and known to his friends as "Lip" introduced millions to Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin through his easy-listening medleys.

He prided himself on being able to play any song requested. But it was the glass pianos, the sequins and candelabra and the touch of camp which endeared him to a multitude of undemanding music-lovers.

Audiences went not only to hear his music but also to see him outside himself with his costumes — furs, feathers, diamond rings shaped like grand pianos and gold lame suits so heavy that he could hardly carry the weight.

Liberace blazed the trail for many younger performers, with Elton John, Elvis Presley and David Bowie just three of dozens of artists who admitted being inspired by his outrageous wardrobe.

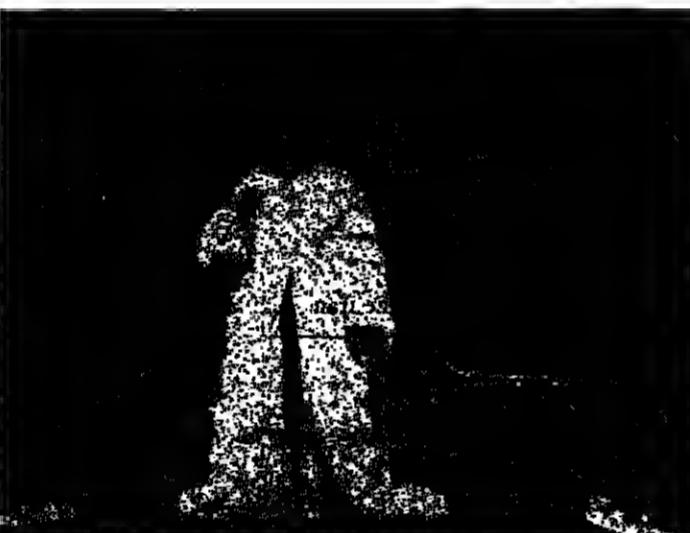
Critics lambasted him for trivialising the classics, calling his act the highest form of camp. But middle-aged and older women loved him. And as for the critics, he once rejoined: "I cried all the way to the bank."

The nightclub act, the concert tours and the recordings earned him an average of \$5 million a year over the last three decades, allowing him to indulge his passion for jewels, lavish homes, antiques, cars and grand pianos.

But life was not all sequins and roses for the man known as "Mr. Showmanship," who once drove on stage in a Rolls-Royce.

He tried to keep his own life to himself in his mansions and apartments in Las Vegas, New York, Hollywood, Palm Springs, Malibu and Lake Tahoe, but was forced publicly to deny allegations that he might be homosexual.

In 1959 Liberace, who never married, won a \$22,400 libel judgment against a gossip columnist for the London Daily Mirror who cast doubts about his sexuality by describing him as "the summit of sex — the pinnacle of masculine, feminine and neuter, everything he, she or it



Liberace on stage in Las Vegas

can ever want."

He answered the attack with denunciations of homosexuality, saying: "I'm against the practice because it offends society."

More recently, he settled for \$95,000 what remained of a multimillion-dollar "palimony" suit by Scott Thorson, a former dancer who claimed he was promised a salary for life by Liberace in exchange for being entertainer's travel secretary, chauffeur, anim-

al trainer and lover.

His health deteriorated and he was treated in January for acute anaemia — a blood ailment that started, his agent said, when he was on a watermelon diet to lose weight.

Heart disease and advanced emphysema from a life of chain-smoking brought further complications, but his agent vehemently denied a Las Vegas newspaper report that the star had

been diagnosed with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Born on May 16, 1919, to an Italian who played the French horn and a doting Polish mother, he began playing the piano at four, showing early promise as a classical pianist. But to support the family during the depression of the 30's, he took the name Walter Sustek and worked as a music hall accompanist at a local club. He officially began his show-business career in the middle of World War II. Then, on the advice of the great Polish pianist-patriot Paderewski, he legally dropped his first two names in favour of Liberace.

Soon afterwards, he acquired the candelabra, placed on top of the piano, that became his first trademark. Stage experts said the secret of his success was his ability to draw in an audience, as if he were playing to each person.

He last appeared on stage in October at New York's Radio City Music Hall, where during a sold-out engagement, the New York Times reported that he flew across the stage like "a puffed-up Peter pan in 100 pounds of purple and white feathers."

His final public appearances were autograph sessions promoting his new book, "The Wonderful Private World of Liberace," a glossy publication picturing his homes and possessions and his meetings with celebrities, including Presley, Michael Jackson and Pope Pius XII.

But the book told little that was not known about his private life other than a claim that he lost his virginity at the age of 16 to a singer who appeared under the name Miss Bea Haven.

Hollywood recalls glamorous past with 100th birthday party

By John Pine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — As Hollywood marks its 100th birthday it conjures up an image of a once glamorous film-star fallen on hard times.

For decades the world-famous home of the movie industry, Hollywood has gone from riches to rags.

Male and female prostitutes, drug pushers, the homeless and deranged have dominated night-life along Hollywood Boulevard for the past 20 years, forcing out many businesses. Pornographic filmmakers, book stores and peep shows replaced them.

Only one film studio remains within the vague boundaries of Hollywood, the others displaced by the television and music industries.

But Hollywood has plenty of old friends in the film world, and they are throwing a lengthy birthday party to try to get "Tinseltown" back on its feet.

Community and business leaders hope to rejuvenate the naturally beautiful area with a 20-year redevelopment plan costing nearly a \$1 billion and a year-long "hooray for Hollywood" centennial celebration.

"Our birthday salute to the most famous community in the world will be the most glamorous, glittery celebration ever to honour the birth of a city," said veteran master of ceremonies John Grant, chairman of the salute.

The campaign was kicked off during the half-time show at the football super bowl in January, but official celebrating began on

February 1.

On that date in 1887 land speculator Harold Wilcox from Kansas filed a map of his 120-acre citrus farm which he hoped would become a tidy, prosperous suburb. He registered it as "Hollywood," the name of a friend's summer cottage.

Hundreds of people, including Hollywood legends Bob Hope and Jimmy Stewart, crowded into the refurbished Roosevelt Hotel for the gala party.

There were trumpeters in medieval costume, an ice sculpture replica of the famed Hollywood sign, a giant birthday cake and a plexiglass time capsule into which stars deposited mementos of the legend that is Hollywood.

The festivities began with the unveiling of the 1842 star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, given posthumously to actress Natalie Wood, who starred in "West Side Story," "Miracle on 34th Street," "Rebel Without a Cause," and "Splendor in the Grass." She drowned in a boating accident in 1981.

A centennial weekend in June will feature a Hollywood bowl concert honouring comedian Bob Hope and his wife Dolores as "citizens of the century," a "Dancing in the streets" party at the corner of Hollywood and Vine, and a "100 famous faces" gala to air as a television special with fireworks and a laser show at the famous hillside Hollywood Sign.

Other major events will include an old-fashioned Hollywood premiere at the Chinese Theatre in May, celebrity tennis and polo tournaments, a Hollywood-themed game sponsored by the

California lottery and the minting of commemorative coins.

Hollywood's film industry sprang from an unforeseeable coincidence of climate, scenery, robust entrepreneurship and a new technology for mass entertainment.

The Motion Picture Patents Co., trying to enforce a monopoly on cameras, drove fledgling film companies west.

D.W. Griffith led the way by bringing his entourage to make films in Los Angeles in the winter of 1910, when it was too cold and dark in New York. Jesse Lasky and Cecil B. DeMille, put off by the snow-covered mountains in Arizona, continued west to make the first Hollywood feature-length film, "The Squaw Man," in 1913.

Hollywood quickly became not only a piece of geography but the fabled and fabulous symbol of all American filmmaking — a factory town for an art form.

The years before television were the glory days for Hollywood, which has a population estimated at 250,000.

In the glittery nightclubs along Sunset Boulevard, the glamour that Hollywood portrayed on the screen was mirrored by its private life, with Rolls-Royce, Mercedes and Cadillacs clogging the streets.

Even then, the industry was not confined to Hollywood proper. Studios stretched from the San Fernando Valley to Culver City. Hollywood itself had Columbia, Fox-Western, Goldwyn and Paramount, the one that remains.

Behind the starry surfaces, there was always the other Hollywood, the industry bometown

where generations of families have been extras, carpenters, costumers, make-up people, editors and camera operators, living in bungalows below Sunset and in the hill-clinging houses on the twisting streets above.

The advent of daily television broadcasting shortly after World

War II brought revolutionary and often painful changes to the film business. Readjustments continued as other cities and countries lured away producers.

Adapting to shifting economic realities, Hollywood has begun to fight back. The \$922-million redevelopment plan will start soon

with construction of a hotel, an office tower, and shopping centre near the Chinese Theatre.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce says economic recovery will drive the prostitutes and drug pushers out of streets, provide jobs and care for the unemployed and homeless.

With construction of a hotel, an office tower, and shopping centre near the Chinese Theatre.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce says economic recovery will drive the prostitutes and drug pushers out of streets, provide jobs and care for the unemployed and homeless.

2 young Qatars to retrace medieval Arab explorer

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Two young Qatars plan to set out on a marathon trek with camels in the footsteps of the 14th century Arab explorer Ibn Battouta.

Mohammed Ibn Battouta is highly credited for the spread of Islam during the 30 years he travelled all over what is now the Muslim World.

Now 30-year-old Saleb Bin Mohammed Al Shammary and his friend 35-year-old Ayed Bin Amer Al Shammary, both regulars in the Qatari army, plan to retrace these steps from the past.

In the first leg of an odyssey, which could take them well into the next decade, the two camel riders are to set off from the Qatari embassy in Muscat on a six-month trek to Morocco's Atlantic seaport of Tangier, birthplace of Ibn Battouta, Qatari diplomats said.

Later this year the pair will set out again from Muscat, this time crossing Asia to reach Seoul for the opening ceremony of the 1988 Olympic games. The third leg of the journey is to begin in Turkey late next year and would take them on a swinging loop through Europe.

Despite skirting the Gulf war zone, Saleb said they did not expect any trouble en route. But they were a little apprehensive about the passage through the Sinai desert in Egypt and the grand desert in Libya because of the "prevailing situation" there, said Saleb.

The embassy spokesman said the main worry was in disturbing unexploded land mines which litter the area. But the two travellers were assured that the bedouins there would ensure them a safe passage, he said.

No date has been set for their arrival in Tangier.

Earlier in the week, the federation of Arab Historians held its bi-annual general assembly in Abu Dhabi and recommended practical efforts to rewrite and "correct" misconceptions and falsehoods in the way Western historians had recorded Arab history," the newspaper Al Ittihad reported.

The three dromedaries to carry the two men and their provisions are already resting in the Qatari embassy compound in Muscat after being brought by road from Doha, capital of Qatar.

Qatar's heir apparent and finance minister, Sheik Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who is chairman of Qatar's supreme council for youth welfare, has provided the camels and additional funding for the trek.

The two men plan to carry as few provisions as possible, hoping

to revive interest in ancient Arab culture and civilisation among young people, against the backdrop of a modern day life in luxury," said Saleb.

In the meantime, preparations were in the final stages for the send-off for which a big fanfare is planned.

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Mayotte upsets McEnroe to win U.S. indoor title

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (R) — Fifth seed Tim Mayotte overpowered fellow American John McEnroe, the fourth seed, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 Sunday to win the \$375,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championship.

It was Mayotte's first career victory over McEnroe in six tries and was worth \$67,500. In their previous five meetings, Mayotte had won just 13 sets.

After the first set, Mayotte could do no wrong as he blasted back everything McEnroe sent his way and broke the fourth seed's serve twice in each of the last three sets.

"I felt I was on his serve all day. To my eye he is not hitting it as hard as he was when he was playing his best tennis. There were very few games when he held serve easily," said Mayotte.

"This is a tremendous feeling," said Mayotte. "I was so dis-

appointed from last year because I was playing the best tennis of my career at the time."

Perhaps the turning point of the match came in the sixth game of the third set. McEnroe was up 3-2 and had a break point when he hit what looked to be a perfect backhand passing shot down the line.

McEnroe, 27, who received \$33,750 as runnerup, was impressed with Mayotte's performance. "This has got to be the greatest match he has ever played. He was all over me," McEnroe said.

It was an especially sweet triumph for the 26-year-old, who reached the final of this tournament for the first time last year and was forced to give the title to Ivan Lendl because pulled stomach muscles kept him from playing.

"I'm glad I got to the final and if you lose, you like to lose to a guy who is playing his best,"

said Mayotte. "I was so dis-

Euro soccer roundup

Napoli trounces Avellino without Maradona's help

LONDON (R) — Napoli preserved its two-point lead at the top of the Italian First Division with a 3-0 defeat of Avellino Sunday but one keen partisan was not entirely pleased.

The Napoli win was achieved without help from its unhappy captain and star striker, Diego Maradona, who was suspended from playing for criticizing a referee during a match last month.

"It's not as if it's a great party for me to be a spectator. I suffer too much in the stands," the Argentine World Cup hero said after watching the match at Naples' San Paolo Stadium.

Salvatore Bagni broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute and Andrea Carnaval scored twice more to seal victory for Napoli.

Italy's leading sports paper, La Gazzetta, was moved to proclaim in its headline: "It was beautiful even without Maradona."

But Napoli was not allowed to slip clear of any of its chief rivals. Internazionale, Juventus, Roma, and Milan all won.

Inter beat bottom club Udinese 2-0, Juventus dumped Empoli 3-0, Roma won 1-0 at Verona and Milan beat Atalanta 2-1, also

Graf defeats Mandlikova for Newsweek title

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — The match of the world's third- and fourth-ranked women tennis players turned out to be a mismatch.

Teenager Steffi Graf, amazing even herself with her dominance, downed flu-weakened Hana Mandlikova 6-0, 6-1 in a 40-minute match Sunday in the finals of the \$100,000 Newsweek Women's Tennis Classic.

"I played unbelievable," said Graf, the 17-year-old West German who's ranked no. 3 in the world. "I was relaxed and felt so good. It was one of my best matches."

Graf dominated every aspect of the match at Grand Champions Resort to easily win the \$40,000 first prize. Mandlikova, who was born in Czechoslovakia, collected \$20,000.

Graf won the first nine games of the match, allowing Mandlikova only nine points in the first set. Mandlikova won just two points on her own serve in the set.

The 24-year-old Mandlikova, who spent most of the week in bed because of the flu, was consistently passed by Graf from the baseline and committed numerous unforced errors.

"I couldn't serve and I couldn't return," Mandlikova said. "I basically couldn't do anything."

Graf's game grew even stronger in the second set. She won her first three service games at love and allowed Mandlikova just 12 points in the set. The only game Mandlikova won came when Graf committed four unforced errors in the fourth game.

"She is still young but she is a great player," Mandlikova said. "She has plenty of years ahead of her."

Barcelona, who beat Real in the previous week, fell again on hard times at the cramped Sarria Stadium of city rival Espanol and was held to a 1-1 draw.

Barcelona has now failed to win at the fixture for four seasons. Espanol remains seven points behind the leader.

"We have to be content with one point as we could have played better," Barcelona's coach Terry Venables said.

Spanish Cup holder Real Zaragoza beat Atletico Madrid 1-0.

Winger Francisco Pineda's goal not only earned the points but may also have saved the job of coach Luis Costa.

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Jordan to send 3 cars to Qatar Rally

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the first time, Jordan will be represented by a national team of three cars in the Feb. 19-20 Qatari leg of the 1987 Middle East Rally Championship.

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the national champion of 1986, will lead the team — two Opel Manta and one Toyota Corolla — to the event, which is held on the occasion of the anniversary of the accession to the throne of the ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani.

Apart from Prince Abdullah and his co-driver Amr Bilbeisi, the other two entrants from Jordan are Nabil Karam and his co-driver Ali Bilbeisi, and Issa Halabi and his co-driver Ziad Hamzeh.

Prince Abdullah and the team members as well as the team manager, Suhail Marrar, several-time Middle East champion and president of the Qatari Motor Sports Club, were among a reception committee that greeted the Jordanian team. The Emir received Prince Abdullah during the visit.

Silk Cut is the main sponsor for the two Opel Manta entries, which are part of the national Royal Rally Team, while Royal Jordanian (RJ) is offering free transportation for vehicles and the entire team — a total of 25 to 30 persons including crew, mechanics and administrators. Halabi is solely sponsored by the national carrier, RJ. In addition, the tyre company Pirelli is contributing 90 specially-built racing tyres to the national team.

According to Marrar, the competition is expected to be tough in the event since the leading contenders include Hajri, who took the Middle East crown in three successive years since 1983, Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the UAE, who is the 1986 champion, Lars Erik Thorp, who is ranked among the top 20 rally drivers in the world, and Lassir Lambi of Finland, who is rated fourth in the world in Group A cars (with a power of between 140 to 200 horsepower), are competing.

"We expect that Prince Abdullah will finish in the first five winners in the overall race," said Marrar. "Anything above that would be excellent."

As for Group A cars, Mr. Marrar said, he expected Halabi to put up stiff competition to Lambi.

The Feb. 19-20 event in Qatar is the first leg of this year's Middle East Championship. Other events included in the



The Royal Rally Team headed for the Qatar Rally: (from left to right) Ali Bilbeisi, Nabil Karam, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Amr Bilbeisi, and (in centre middle) Suhail Marrar

championship are scheduled to be held in Kuwait (March 19-20), Jordan (April 15-17), Lebanon (Oct. 9-11), Oman (Oct. 28-30) and the United Arab Emirates (Dec. 3-4).

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Commenting on the terrain involved in the Qatari event, Marrar said most of the routes ran through desert tracks where the vehicles could really pick up speed, especially along the competitive special stages.

In addition to the expected finish of Prince Abdullah among the top five, Marrar expected Halabi to beat Lambi or come second, and the Kingdom to come away with the prize for the best national team.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

West wins NBA All-Star game

SEATTLE (AP) — Tom Chambers won most valuable player honours with 34 points and Rolando Blackman hit two pressure-free throws at the end of regulation as the West beat the East 154-149 in the highest scoring All-Star game in National Basketball Association history. Blackman had 29 points for the West, which had lost the previous three overtime games in the 37-year history of the game. Blackman scored four points in overtime Sunday including the opening basket that gave the West the lead to stay at 142-140. Chambers had four points in the overtime for the West, which still trails in the series 24-13.

Britain's Moorhouse sets swim mark

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Swimmers set three world records Sunday for 25-metre pools at the Bonn Arena swim meet. Adrian Moorhouse of Britain set a record in the 100-metre breaststroke, clocking 59.75 seconds. It was the first time a swimmer broke the longstanding one-minute barrier for the 100-metre breaststroke in a 25-metre pool meet. The new marks came on the last day of the three-day meet, one of the largest international events for 25-metre pools.

Poles capture Valencia marathon

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — Miroslaw Bugaj of Poland won the Marathon of Valencia Sunday with Italy's Bruno Bruera second. Bugaj was timed for the 26.2 miles in two hours, 19 minutes and six seconds with Bruera clocked in 2:20:39. Isidro Martinez of Spain was third in 2:22:46. A total 1,450 athletes took part in the race and 1,162 finished. Ewa Mizoszek of Poland was first in the women's division in 2:46:54, followed by Tania Ball of Britain, 2:52:38, and Dulce Alborns of Spain, 3:02:55.

Soviets call for split in Olympics

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet National Olympic Committee (NOC) has reaffirmed that the Soviet Union wants the 1988 Olympic Games to be split between North Korea and South Korea, the official news agency TASS said. TASS said the Soviet committee made its position clear at a meeting Saturday of its Presidium, or top officials, attended by heads of all national sports federations and representatives to international sports federations. The NOC has also expressed the hope that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would be able to settle problems between North Korea and South Korea in meetings to be held shortly, TASS said.

Kasparov, other grandmasters, seek to reform chess

By Raf Casert
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — World champion Gari Kasparov is leading a groundswell of opposition against chess's ruling body in an effort to give top players more influence in running the game.

The 23-year-old Soviet is spearheading a movement to wrest some power from the Switzerland-based World Chess Federation — known by its French acronym FIDE — and create an independent association of grandmasters.

The aim is to end the stuffy image of chess, make it more a spectator sport and boost players' salaries.

FIDE organizes individual and team world championships and sets the rules for chess. Its 124 member countries have an equal say in running the organisation.

But the players have little influence.

Kasparov's wish for an independent players group stems

from his frustration with FIDE and its Filipino president, Florencio Campomanes. He is not alone in claiming that Campomanes rules chess like an autocrat.

"The opinions of the grandmasters mean nothing" to FIDE, Kasparov said in a recent interview with the Associated Press in Brussels. "FIDE makes the decisions, and we must play according to its rules. We have to give the game back to the players."

He said plans are to form a players association next month that would run a global Grand Prix chess circuit, possibly under the direction of Kasparov's manager, Andrew Page. Page said sponsors are being sought to provide the estimated \$3 million in financing.

FIDE General Secretary Lim Kok An said the organisation does not oppose a Grand Prix "in principle" but declined to elaborate.

Kasparov and Campomanes quarreled publicly when the latter suddenly ended an undecided world title match between Kasparov and his compatriot, Anatoly Karpov, in February 1985.

Karpov has led 5-0, needing a sixth victory for the championship, before Kasparov pulled back within 5-3.

A marathon series of games failed to resolve the match, and Campomanes — citing fatigue by both players — called it a draw.

giving Karpov the title. Kasparov at the time accused Campomanes of interfering to "save his friend, Karpov."

This is not the first time that FIDE has come under fire. When American Bobby Fischer played Boris Spassky for the title in the early 1970s, chess was enjoying an upsurge in popularity. But Fischer, saying he wanted FIDE rules changed, refused to defend the title in 1975 and defaulted.

In a 1985 interview, Kasparov blamed FIDE for Fischer's drop into obscurity, saying the organisation did "great injustice" to the American. "In a juster world of chess, we might be able to see Fischer at the chess board again," Kasparov said.

Kasparov and others complain that big chess nations, such as the Soviet Union with 3 million registered players, are at the mercy of those fielding only a handful of competitors.

FIDE is managed by ignorant people (who) have a majority of votes and nothing else," said Korchnoi. Kasparov added: "Power is divided wrong. Leading nations like my own cannot

do anything."

Kasparov told the AP: "We can live without FIDE, but they cannot live without grandmasters. There is a myth of the tremendous power of FIDE, and many grandmasters think they can do nothing against it. I have been fighting (the FIDE hierarchy) for two years now and they could do nothing against me. I am the strongest in the world."

Page said the proposed grandmaster association would try to take over the running of the world championship and set up its own Grand Prix circuit, comprising six tournaments over two years.

Probable sites are Brussels, Seattle and Moscow. Canada, Latin America, New Zealand and Spain also have expressed interest, Page said.

The circuit would offer first-place money of some \$400,000, in addition to prizes for individual tournaments. Kasparov got only \$5,000 for winning the two-week Orla Tournament in Brussels last month.

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Filipino guerrillas kill 5 in first post-ceasefire attack

Manila opens peace talks with Muslim rebels

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels killed five civilians Monday in the first violence after a 60-day ceasefire, while troops were ordered to strike at guerrillas who launched pre-emptive attacks before the truce ended Sunday.

A military spokesman said the Communist New People's Army (NPA) killed five civilians in the southern province of Davao Del Sur in a dawn attack. He gave no other details.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said troops were in pursuit of rebels who killed five soldiers and wounded five others in an attack in the northern province of Kalinga-Apayao and others who attacked two farms in the south on Friday.

Gen. Ramos said that the armed forces would go after "extremists" — from both the left and the right of the political spectrum — who persist in violating the law.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), the rebels' political arm, rejected appeals by President Corazon Aquino's government to extend the ceasefire and resume negotiations aimed at finding a permanent solution to the 17-year insurgency.

"We will do what we have to do if the extremists in the country persist in violating the law and we will conduct our operation firmly and with consistency," Gen. Ramos said.

He told soldiers at the opening of a military training centre west of Manila that the extreme left, which consists of the NDF, the NPA and the Communist Party and their front organisations, uses violence to seize power.

On the extreme right, he said, were certain groups who use money and their own private army "to entrench and perpetuate themselves in positions of influence to gain economic advantage." Gen. Ramos did not identify the groups.

He said the military was at the centre of all sectors of society and was "the stabilising influence for our government and our people during these very critical times."

Gen. Ramos said voters' approval of a new constitution last week reflected the people's rejection of these extremist forces.

"To all extremist elements who refuse to join the mainstream of society, we have no recourse but to use the authority given to us legally under the constitution and existing laws to protect our community and provide safety to the public," he said.

The government opened talks Monday with Muslim rebels on possible self-rule for the southern Philippines in a bid to end a 14-year-old separatist revolt.

Mrs. Aquino launched her latest peace bid a day after the end of a 60-day ceasefire with Communist rebels.

A military spokesman told Reuters the armed forces would honour safe-conduct passes issued to Communist peace negotiators and members of regional ceasefire committees for a further 30 days.

The absence of one Muslim rebel group at the negotiations on autonomy for Mindanao and surrounding islands appeared to dampen hopes of a quick resolution to the conflict there, but government and rebel envoys said they hoped the talks would end the insurgency.

Both sides agreed to resume discussions on Feb. 20.

Sikh extremists kill police officer, son

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists have shot dead a police officer and his son in Punjab and a woman died of bullet wounds Monday as the north Indian state's chief minister remained at odds with the high priests of his faith.

A police spokesman in the state capital, Chandigarh, told Reuters that gunmen entered the house of deputy superintendent Harpal Singh at Rayya, near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, and killed the officer and his son.

Garde Kaur, niece of a famous figure in India's independence struggle, Bhagat Singh, died Monday of wounds sustained on Saturday when extremists attacked her family in a village near Ludhiana City, the spokesman said.

Kaur's father-in-law was killed in the attack and her mother was seriously injured, he added.

The three were all Sikhs and their deaths raised to 22 the toll in Sikh extremist violence in the state this month. The extremists are fighting for an independent Sikh state in Punjab.

The killings briefly turned attention away from Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, who is struggling to save his state government after the Sikh faith's five high priests ordered

him to resign from the ruling party on Sunday.

Mr. Barnala told reporters in Chandigarh Sunday night that his government and party were intact even as the priests announced from Amritsar that all factions of Punjab's ruling Akali Dal had ceased to exist.

Mr. Barnala heads the Akali Dal Party, which has ruled the troubled state since September 1985.

It is the second time in a week that Mr. Barnala has defied an order of the priests, who sit in a complex housing the Sikhs' holiest shrine, The Golden Temple. Their edicts carry the force of law in religious and secular matters for all Sikhs.

The chief minister now faces possible excommunication from the faith as punishment.

The priests, in a bid to reunite the party, have ordered all the factions to be dissolved and regrouped under a new unified Akali Dal to be headed by a联合 Sikhs militant and led by a committee drawn from anti-Barnala factions.

About 30 party officials and some state assembly members resigned over the weekend but Mr. Barnala's main supporters rejected the priests' call.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Man attacked by wolves

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pack of hungry wolves have attacked a 49-year-old man from Safawi area, formerly known as HS, and injured him in his left hand, a report in the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab said on Monday. It was Aquil Hussein, was lucky to survive, when a group of men hurried to save him from the hungry wolves, which ran away leaving him bleeding. Mr. Hussein was then rushed to the hospital for treatment for his injury.

Cougar hides on RJ jet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian has made headlines in major Chicago newspapers and on U.S. TV stations, when a 20 week old cougar escaped from its cage while being transferred from an air cargo depot at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to a Royal Jordanian jet bound for Qatar, Royal Jordanian News reported in its issue of Feb. 5. Airport officials reported that the cougar broke loose when the top of its cage accidentally opened. "But rumours had it that the cougar became very upset and ran away when our flight attendant told him that he could select his meal only from the food list and not the passenger list," Royal Jordanian News said.

2-headed baby born in S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — A Saudi mother has given birth to a boy with two heads, two necks and two backbones, a hospital official has said. Abdulla Ali Al Saman, director of King Khaled Hospital, in Majma, north of Riyadh, told Reuter the infant is in an incubator and his chances of living were almost nil.

Family overpowers intruder

LONDON (AP) — A family held hostage in their London home by a wanted man fought back to win their freedom and put their attacker in hospital with severe injuries, police said. The unidentified intruder, who was sought for questioning in a murder inquiry, broke into the Ward family home in Sydenham, South East London, said Detective Superintendent David Parkinson. He said the man tied up David Ward, a 42-year-old carpenter, and herded his wife Carol and the couple's four children and a friend staying with them into a study, threatening them with a knife. At midday, the intruder untied Ward and sent him out of the house to buy cigarettes. Ward called police from the shop and then returned to the house where he hit the intruder on the head with a bottle while his wife stabbed the man in the stomach with a carving knife. The five children, aged 6 to 16, and Mrs. Ward ran into the street as police arrived and the intruder, covered in blood, was arrested and taken to Lewisham Hospital, Parkinson said. The man was "seriously ill," while the family had been treated for shock, cuts and bruises and sent home, a hospital spokesman said.

8 Sri Lankans killed in clash with rebels

Muslim villages in the east as part

of a 5,000-member force to be

deployed in the next few days.

"These commandos have gone

to the isolated villages to protect

the civilians there," he said.

He said they would be pulled

out after they have trained 10

men in each village and given

firearms to protect civilians from

rebel attacks.

The initial three-week training

begins Tuesday in some villages

and would be supplemented by a

retraining six months later, he

said.

The commandos were sent to

the villages shortly after rebels

fighting for an independent

homeland for minority Tamils

shot dead nine villagers and in

jured 14 others on Feb. 4 in

Manthattan in the eastern

district of Amparai and killed 23

others, including 10 children

three days later in Aranthalawa,

the government said.

Everything up for election in Gorbachev reforms — Falin

BONN (R) — Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's internal reforms will constitute a revolution

which will mean elections for all

important offices, possibly in

cluding the Communist Party

Central Committee, a senior

Soviet official was quoted Mon-

day as saying.

"We don't want democracy to

exist as a mere slogan, a label. It

must be visible," Valentin Falin,

head of the Novosti Press Agency,

told the West German daily

Die Welt in an interview released

ahead of publication on Tuesday.

"What is happening with us is a

revolution, in its depth, its quality

and also in its consequences," he

said.

"It could be that the trans-

formation in thinking and be-

haviour will take until 1990, be-

fore quantity transforms into

quality. Perhaps longer. One

needs time to raise the younger

generation to leading positions.

"In future, everything will be

by election — directors of factor-

ies, heads of departments, lead-

ers of brigades, directors of insti-

tutes and the first secretaries of re-

gional party organisations," Mr. Falin

was quoted as saying.

"The logic of Gorbachev's poli-

cy would not contradict a secret

revolution.

Amnesty says Peruvian

troops massacred prisoners

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty Inter-

national said Monday it has

evidence that Peruvian security

forces tortured and killed some of

the inmates who surrendered after

prison riots in June.

Saying Afghan troops had

merely responded to guerrilla

attacks, he said: "There was no

question of movement of forces.

It was just an act of the forces

which were there."

Soviet troops had not been

involved, he said, adding that

military activity by government

forces had almost ceased.

Mr. Kishman said blamed sup-

porters of the Pakistan-based

guerrilla leaders for a car bomb

explosion which killed at least

four people near the Indian

embassy in Kabul on Feb. 1.

No one has so far been arrested

in the case, he said.

Asked whether a new constitu-

tion now being drafted would

permit other political parties in

addition to the currently ruling

People's Democratic Party of Af-

ghanistan (PDPA), Mr. Kish-

man said: "We have not ruled

out other parties."

Change sex attitudes to halt AIDS'

VATICAN CITY (R) — A change in sexual behaviour, not the

free distribution of contracep-

tives, is needed to combat the

spread of AIDS, the Vatican news-

paper Osservatore Romano

has said. The semi-official daily said society had reached a point of "tragi-comical exaggeration" in believing that free condoms would ensure it could continue to behave in the same sexually

free way. It said simple common sense showed such reasoning to be

superficial and absurd. AIDS was known to be spread by a

certain type of behaviour, the paper said. "The only ...

reasonable decision is to stop that sort of behaviour ...," it

added. The Italian government recently decided to distribute

free contraceptive methods to servicemen in an attempt to

prevent the spread of AIDS. The Roman Catholic Church

condem